

AMBULANCE AND EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES

A GUIDE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS



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Medical Services

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EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES

When should I seek services from a hospital Emergency Room?

An emergency medical condition is defined as a medical condition which most non-medical people think could result in serious impairment or would place the person's health, or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child, in serious jeopardy.

If you need Emergency Care, go to the nearest doctor or hospital.

Examples of what would NOT be considered an emergency:

- Headaches including migraines, which occur on a regular basis
- Refills on Medications
- Constipation or menstrual cramps
- Missing a clinic appointment or inability to schedule a clinic appointment
- Chronic pain

Coverage for Emergency Care

If you need Emergency Care, go to the nearest doctor or hospital. You do not need a referral or prior authorization for an emergency medical condition.

Urgent Care services are defined as care for non-life threatening conditions that cannot wait for a regular scheduled appointment. The condition could become worse without timely medical care. You should not go to an Emergency Room for Urgent Care.

Primary Care services are defined as basic or general care, traditionally provided by a family practitioner, pediatrician and internist. You should not go to an Emergency Room for Primary Care.

Co-payment

If you use an Emergency Room for emergency service, there is no copayment.

If you use an Emergency Room for Urgent or Primary care services, you will be charged a \$6.00 co-payment. (effective 7/1/2004)

AMBULANCE SERVICES

When is it appropriate to use an ambulance?

Ambulance services are meant to provide transportation and care when a person has an emergency medical condition.

Coverage for Ambulance Services

North Dakota Medicaid covers ambulance services provided for a medical emergency.

Payment

Ambulance services will not be paid by Medicaid if the condition is not an emergency. Other methods of transportation must be used if you do not have a medical emergency. If you use an ambulance for non-emergency services, you will be responsible for the ambulance charges.